

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 16, 2007. Claims 1 to 3, 5 and 10 to 15 are in the application, with Claims 4 and 6 to 9 having been canceled and new Claims 12 to 15 having been added. Claims 1, 10 and 12 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for allegedly including the following reference numerals not mentioned in the description: 37, 55, 116, 131, 133, 134, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405 and 406. Without conceding the correctness of the objection, reference numerals 37 and 55 have been deleted from the drawings, and reference numerals 116, 131, 133, 134, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405 and 406 have been added to the description. These changes are not believed to add any new matter.

The drawings were also objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for allegedly failing to include reference numerals mentioned in the description. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the drawings fail to include reference numerals 38 and 40, and that reference numeral 1500 should be added to Figure 19. Without conceding the correctness of this objection, reference numeral 38 has been deleted from the specification, and reference numerals 40 and 1500 have been added to Figure 19.

In addition, Figure 19 was objected to for an informality. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that reference numeral “20c” should read “20C”. Without conceding the correctness of this objection, Figure 19 has been amended as suggested.

Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The disclosure was objected to for an informality which has been attended to by amendment as set out above. In addition, the Abstract was objected to for exceeding 150 words, and been amended to reduce the number of words therein. Withdrawal of these objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 4 were objected to for an informality. In particular, the Office Action alleges that line 5 of Claim 2 should read "the selection mode" instead of "the selecting step". This objection is traversed. In particular, the "selecting step" in Claim 2 refers to the selecting step of Claim 1, and not the selection mode of Claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly being directed to software per se. Without conceding the correctness of this rejection, Claim 10 has been amended in keeping with the guidelines of MPEP § 2106.01, so that it recites a "computer-executable program stored on a computer-readable medium". Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,507,411 (Nishikawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,227 (Endo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns poster printing and double-sided printing. Printing attributes are set including poster printing to divide a page of print data into a predetermined number of pieces so that resultant data is printed over a plurality of media, and double-sided printing to print a first page and a second page of print data on both sides of a medium. The first page and the second page of print data are divided into

the predetermined number of pieces when the poster printing is included in the print attribute.

According to one aspect of the invention, one piece of the first page of print data and one piece of the second page of print data are selected, and a position of the selected piece of the first page is different from a position of the selected piece of the second page.

For example, in one sample embodiment described in the specification, Figure 12 depicts the basic arrangement of a front 1201 and back side 1202 of a medium, and Figure 15 depicts the printing order of first and second pages on the front and back of the medium. As can be seen in Figure 15, the upper left region <1> of the first page 151 is selected for printing, followed by the upper right region <2> of the second page 152, and the region <2> is printed on the back side of the region <1> of the first page 151. Thus, the position of the selected piece of the first page (upper left) is different from a position of the selected piece of the second page (upper right).

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to generate print data of separate pieces of a poster image in the correct order, such that all of the poster pieces together constitute the original images on both the front and back side of the medium. In contrast, without different positions for selected pieces of the first and second page data, certain images might be divided across the medium, as shown in Figure 14.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of controlling printing executed in an information processing apparatus which communicates with a printer. The method includes a setting step of setting printing

attributes including poster printing to divide a page of print data into a predetermined number of pieces so that resultant data is printed over a plurality of media and double-sided printing to print a first page and a second page of print data on both sides of a medium. The method also includes a dividing step of dividing each of the first page and the second page of print data into the predetermined number of pieces when the poster printing is included in the printing attributes. In addition, the method includes a selecting step of selecting one piece from the predetermined number of pieces obtained by dividing the first page of print data and selecting one piece from the predetermined number of pieces obtained by dividing the second page of print data, when the poster printing and the double-sided printing are included in the printing attributes. The method further includes a generating step of generating print data such that the selected piece of the first page of print data and the selected piece of the second page of print data are printed on a front side and a back side of a medium, respectively. A position of the selected piece of the first page is different from a position of the selected piece of the second page.

Independent Claims 10 and 12 are directed to a program and an apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of selecting pieces of a first page of print data and a second page of print data for printing on the front side and back side of a medium, respectively, wherein a position of the selected piece of the first page is different from a position of the selected piece of the second page.

In this regard, page 6 of the Office Action concedes that Nishikawa does not disclose selecting one of predetermined pieces of print data obtained by dividing a first or second page of print data, or printing the one piece of the first page of print data and the one piece of the second page of print data on the front side and the back side of a medium. Applicant agrees, and submits that Nishikawa therefore also cannot disclose selecting pieces of a first page of print data and a second page of print data for printing on the front side and back side of a medium, respectively, wherein a position of the selected piece of the first page is different from a position of the selected piece of the second page.

Nevertheless, the Office Action asserts that Endo (Column 3, lines 8 to 12 and Column 17, line 66 to Column 18, line 11) discloses selecting one of the predetermined pieces of print data obtained by dividing a first page of print data, selecting one of the predetermined pieces of print data obtained by dividing a second page of print data, and printing the one piece of the first page of print data and the one piece of the second page of print data on the front side and the back side of a medium.

As understood by Applicant, Endo is directed to detecting and eliminating avoidable image reading operations in an image forming apparatus. The apparatus reads image data, stores the data in memory, and outputs one copy of the document as a sample copy. Based on functions selected by the user, the apparatus determines whether to use the image data previously stored in the memory, or whether the original document must be re-read. See Endo, Abstract.

However, the cited portions of Endo simply describe that a user can select a double-sided printing function. See Endo, Column 3, lines 8 to 12 and Column 17, line 66

to Column 18, line 11. There is not seen to be any selection of respective pieces of first and second pages of print data for printing on the front and back of a medium, much less doing so such that a position of the selected piece of the first page is different from a position of the selected piece of the second page.

Since Endo is not seen to disclose or suggest that a position of a selected piece of a first page of print data is different from a position of a selected piece of a second page of print data, Endo is also not seen to disclose or suggest the attendant benefits of such an arrangement, including generating print data of separate pieces of poster images in the correct order on both the front and back of a medium.

Therefore, independent Claims 1, 10 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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